AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1.   (Currently Amended) An arrangement for combining narrowband and broadband transport mechanisms in a communications network, comprising:

a narrowband ~~component~~ network switch, said narrowband ~~component~~ network switch including switching intelligence and narrowband switching fabric;

a broadband ~~component~~ network switch in communication with the narrowband ~~component~~ network switch, said broadband ~~component~~ network switch including only broadband switching fabric;

wherein, when a first traffic call, destined for a node that has only narrowband capabilities, is received in the narrowband ~~component~~ network switch, the switching intelligence in the narrowband ~~component~~ network switch utilizes the narrowband switching fabric to route the first traffic call to the narrowband destination node, and

wherein, when a second traffic call, destined for a node that has broadband capabilities, is received in the narrowband ~~component~~ network switch, the switching intelligence in the narrowband ~~component~~ network switch utilizes the broadband switching fabric in the broadband ~~component~~ network switch to route the second traffic call to the broadband destination node.

2.   (Currently Amended) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein when a third traffic call, destined for a node that has broadband capabilities, is received in the broadband ~~component~~ network switch, the broadband ~~component~~ network switch utilizes the broadband switching fabric to route the third traffic call to the destination.

3.   (Currently Amended) The arrangement according to claim 2, wherein the third traffic call is serviced by at least one telecommunications feature via said narrowband ~~component~~ network switch.

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4.   (Currently Amended) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said broadband ~~component~~ network switch relies on the switching intelligence of said narrowband ~~component~~ network switch.

5.   (Currently Amended) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said narrowband ~~component~~ network switch includes a synchronous transfer mode (STM) switch, and said broadband ~~component~~ network switch includes an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) switch.

6.   (Currently Amended) The arrangement according to claim 1, further comprising at least one circuit emulator, said at least one circuit emulator adapted to enable said broadband ~~component~~ network switch to emulate a circuit with respect to said narrowband ~~component~~ network switch.

7.   (Currently Amended) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said broadband ~~component~~ network switch is adapted to emulate a circuit connection for the outgoing side of the second traffic call at said broadband ~~component~~ network switch.

8-16.   (Canceled)

17.   (Currently Amended) A method for enabling a migration of a narrowband network to a broadband transport mechanism, comprising the steps of:
        connecting a first ~~control node~~ network switch having call control functionality and narrowband connection control functionality to a second ~~control node~~ network switch having only broadband connection control functionality;
        receiving, at the first ~~control node~~ network switch, a first traffic call in a first format;
        determining by the call control functionality in the first network switch whether the first format is a narrowband format or a broadband format;

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upon determining that the first format is a narrowband format, forwarding the first traffic call to a first destination node using the narrowband connection control functionality in the first network switch;

upon determining that the first format is a broadband format, routing the first traffic call to the second network switch; and

forwarding the first traffic call to a second destination node using the broadband connection control functionality in the second network switch.

~~forwarding, from the first control node to a first destination node, the first traffic call in the first format;~~

~~receiving, at the first control node, a second traffic call in the first format;~~

~~routing, by the first control node, the second traffic call to the second control node; and~~

~~forwarding, from the second control node to a second destination node, the second traffic call in a second format.~~

18. (Original) The method according to claim 17, wherein the first format comprises a time division multiplexed (TDM) format, and the second format comprises an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) format.

19. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 17, wherein the first ~~control node~~ network switch includes a synchronous transfer mode (STM) switch, and the second ~~control node~~ network switch includes an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) switch; and wherein the first ~~control node~~ network switch is directly connected to the ~~control~~ second ~~node~~ network switch.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

receiving, at the second ~~control node~~ network switch, a ~~third~~ second traffic call in ~~the~~ a second format; ~~and~~

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forwarding, from the second control node, the third traffic call in the second format

routing the second traffic call from the second network switch to the first network switch;

providing a telecommunications service for the second traffic call by the call control functionality in the first network switch; and

routing the second traffic call from the first network switch back to the second network switch.

22.   (Canceled)

23.   (Currently Amended) A method for enabling a migration of a narrowband network to a broadband transport mechanism, comprising the steps of:

receiving, at a narrowband control node network switch having call control functionality and connection control functionality, a first traffic call in a first format;

forwarding, from the narrowband control node network switch to a narrowband destination node, the first traffic call in the first format;

receiving, at a broadband control node network switch having only connection control functionality, a second traffic call in a second format;

routing, by the broadband control node network switch, the second traffic call to the narrowband control node network switch; and

forwarding, from the narrowband control node network switch, the second traffic call in the first format.

24.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 23, wherein said step of routing, by the broadband control node network switch, the second traffic call to the narrowband control node network switch is performed by the broadband control node network switch responsive to at least one instruction from the narrowband control node network switch.

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25.   (Currently Amended) A method for enabling a gradual migration from a primarily narrowband network to a primarily broadband network, comprising the steps of:

receiving in a narrowband network switch, a traffic call having an identifier that corresponds to a destination terminal of the traffic call;

analyzing by switching intelligence in the narrowband network switch, the identifier that corresponds to the destination terminal of the traffic call; determining to determine whether the identifier is associated with a network node having broadband capability;

if the identifier is associated with a network node having broadband capability, forwarding by the switching intelligence in the narrowband network switch, the communication over a broadband transport mechanism; and

if the identifier is not associated with a network node having broadband capability, forwarding by the switching intelligence in the narrowband network switch, the communication over a narrowband transport mechanism.

26.   (Canceled)

27.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein said step of receiving a traffic call having an identifier that corresponds to a destination terminal of the traffic call comprises the step of receiving the traffic call on a broadband transport mechanism.

28.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein said step of receiving a traffic call having an identifier that corresponds to a destination terminal of the traffic call comprises the step of receiving the traffic call on a narrowband transport mechanism.

29.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 25, wherein the identifier comprises a called directory number; and wherein said step of analyzing the identifier that corresponds to the destination terminal of the traffic call comprises the

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step of analyzing, ~~via a narrowband group switch,~~ the identifier <u>by the switching intelligence in the narrowband network switch</u>.

30. (Original) The method according to claim 25, wherein said step of determining whether the identifier is associated with a network node having broadband capability comprises the step of comparing the identifier to a plurality of entries in a data structure.

31. (Original) The method according to claim 30, wherein the data structure includes bearer type information.

32. (Original) The method according to claim 25, wherein said step of determining whether the identifier is associated with a network node having broadband capability comprises the step of determining a proximity between the network node and the destination terminal.

33. (Original) The method according to claim 25, further comprising the step of determining whether an identifier that corresponds to an origination terminal is associated with a network node that has broadband capability.

34-36. (Canceled)

37. (Currently Amended) A method for combining narrowband applications with broadband transport in a communications network, comprising:

terminating a time division multiplexed (TDM) inbound side of a first traffic call at a circuit switch;

<u>determining by call control functionality in the circuit switch whether the destination for the first traffic call has only TDM communications capability;</u>

if the destination for the first traffic call has only TDM communications capability:

switching the first traffic call by the circuit switch; and

terminating a TDM outbound side of the first traffic call at the circuit switch;

terminating a TDM inbound side of a second traffic call at the circuit switch;

switching the second traffic call by the circuit switch; ~~and~~

<u>determining by the call control functionality in the circuit switch whether the destination for the second traffic call has asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) communications capability; and</u>

if the destination for the second traffic call has asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) communications capability:

switching the second traffic call by a packet switch connected to the circuit switch; and

terminating an ATM outbound side of the second traffic call at the packet switch.

38. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 37, further comprising the steps of:

terminating an ATM inbound side of a third traffic call at the packet switch;

switching the third traffic call by the packet switch;

switching the third traffic call by the circuit switch; and

terminating a TDM outbound side of the third traffic call at the circuit switch.

39. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 37, further comprising the steps of:

terminating an ATM inbound side of a third traffic call at the packet switch;

switching the third traffic call by the packet switch;

switching the third traffic call by the circuit switch;

providing a telecommunications service for the third traffic call via the circuit switch; and

at least one of the following steps:

terminating an ATM outbound side of the third traffic call at the packet switch; and

terminating a TDM outbound side of the third traffic call at the circuit switch.

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40.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 37, further comprising the steps of:

terminating an ATM inbound side of a third traffic call at the packet switch;

switching the third traffic call by the packet switch; and

terminating an ATM outbound side of the third traffic call at the packet switch.

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